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## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

## CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT Public Reaction to War Danger in Bulgaria

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 1. Bulgarian propaganda against Tito, which accuses him of planning an invasion of the homeland, has had a profound effect on the Bulgarian population not only along the Bulgarian-Yugoslav frontier but in Sofia itself. It has so alarmed the population that it is affecting the economic life of the country and, as a result, in several instances the propaganda line had to be rectified to restore order.
  - 2. The population has been given orders in Sofia to prepare the cellars of their homes for use as air raid shelters, stocking them with food and water. Instructions were also given to the effect that attics should be cleared of all inflammable material and food stocks. These measures were interpreted by the population as being indicative of imminent war, and many people quit their jobs and took their families to the country. Following this exodus, the Government immediately ordered that, in the future, it would be considered an offense to leave the city and all apprehended in this act would be punished. In the meantime, preparations against air attacks continued, and the population was ordered to place buckets of sand in all attics.
  - 3. In the border area near Dragoman, the unceasing movement of troops and the arrival in town of tanks, which had been conspicuously absent since May 1950, plus the propaganda to the effect that Tito is a warmonger, have so alarmed the farmers that they do very little work. In order to quiet the fears of the peasants, the announcement was made that there was no danger of a Yugoslav invasion and that the Bulgarian troop movements were but a plan to intimidate the Yugoslavs.
  - 4. Along the Bulgarian frontier area bordering on Yugoslavia, groups of armed peasants have been formed who are supposed to assist in guarding the border and help apprehend Tito agents sent into Bulgaria. It was soon learned, by Bulgarian authorities, however, that these men could not be trusted alone and many profited from their positions close to the frontier to escape into Yugoslavia. Consequently, members of regular infantry units were assigned to each group of peasants to control their movements.

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